REMARKS

This communication responds to the Final Office Action dated January 8, 2009.

Claims 1-13 and 15-53 are canceled; as a result, claims 55-57 are now pending in this application.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-13 and 15-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cowles (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,315). Claims 1-13 and 15-53 are canceled without prejudice. The right to reintroduce the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications on a later date is reserved.

It is believed that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1), and notification of allowance is respectfully requested in the next official communication.

Allowed Claims

Claims 55-57 are allowed. The allowed subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

Title: DEVICE AND METHOD TO REDUCE WORDLINE RC TIME CONSTANT IN SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICES

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (612) 371-2172 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date March 9, 2009

By <u>Caul</u> J. Urlanski

Reg. No. 58,351

<u>CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8</u>: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 9, 2009.

Name)

Signature